

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 ACDA-12 ARA-10
/101 W

-----121847 170307Z /61

O 170250Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1402
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01987

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: REVISED MESSAGE FOR SWAPO

REF: (A) USUN 1943, (B) STATE 122735

1. CONTACT GROUP AGREED MAY 16 ON FOLLOWING CHANGES IN
WESTERN FIVE MESSAGE TO SWAPO (REF A):

(A) PARA TWO OF MESSAGE, SENTENCE THREE: DELETE THE
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WORDS, "LAST WEEKEND".

(B) PARA FOUR, SENTENCE TWO : INSERT THE WORDS "WHICH WE
ALL DEPLORE" BETWEEN THE WORDS "VIOLENCE" AND "WILL".
SENTENCE NOW READS: "UNLESS WE REACH ONE SOON, THE CYCLE
OF REPRESSION AND VIOLENCE, WHICH WE ALL DEPLORE, WILL
INCREASE IN FREQUENCY AND SCALE, MAKING THE ACHIEVEMENT

OF A SETTLEMENT EVEN MORE DIFFICULT."

COMMENT: THESE WORDS WERE INSERTED IN EFFORT TO RESPOND TO BRITISH DESIRE TO UNDERLINE THE NEED FOR RESTRAINT ON SWAPO'S PART. UKUN HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM LONDON TO REQUEST INSERTION IN MESSAGE OF LANGUAGE TO THE EFFECT THAT "WE HAVE URGED SOUTH AFRICA TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT AND MUST NOW URGE YOU TO DO THE SAME." THE CANADIANS AND GERMANS JOINED US IN STRONGLY OPPOSING LONDON'S LANGUAGE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

(1) THE NEED FOR RESTRAINT IS ALREADY CLEARLY IMPLICIT IN THE MESSAGE; (2) THE BRITISH LANGUAGE EQUATES THE PAST MILITARY ACTIONS OF SWAPO WITH THOSE OF SOUTH AFRICA: AN EQUATION TO WHICH SWAPO VIOLENTLY OBJECTS; AND (3) SUCH LANGUAGE WOULD TRIGGER A TIRADE FROM NUJOMA WHICH WOULD COMPLETELY UNDERMINE THE POSITIVE INTENT OF THE MESSAGE. CONTACT GROUP REJECTED UK LANGUAGE, BUT MADE MINOR CHANGE DESCRIBED ABOVE. BRITISH RELUCTANTLY AGREED. END COMMENT.

(C) PARA FOUR, SENTENCE THREE: REPLACE "WOULD" WITH "WILL" IN BOTH INSTANCES.

(D) REWRITE PENULTIMATE PARAGRAPH AS FOLLOWS: "WE WERE ENCOURAGED BY THE STATEMENT IN YOUR LETTER TO CONFIDENTIAL

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AMBASSADOR YOUNG THAT SWAPO STILL WISHES TO HAVE AN ACCEPTABLE NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT FOR NAMIBIA. WE HOPE THAT WE WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO DISCUSS YOUR REMAINING CONCERNS WITH YOU AS SOON AS YOU FEEL ABLE TO MEET US. IN PARTICULAR, WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH YOU SOME POSITIVE SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THE MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE OF WALVIS BAY."

COMMENT: THIS REVISION INCORPORATES DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTED CHANGE (REF B) AND ALSO RESPONDS TO CONCERN ON PART OF USUN THAT IT COULD PROVE HARMFUL TO STATE IN WRITING TO SWAPO OUR WILLINGNESS TO MAKE "A FIRM COMMITMENT THAT WALVIS BAY MUST BE A PART OF NAMIBIA, IN THE CONTEXT OF YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL." SWAPO IS ALREADY CHARGING US WITH BLACKMAILING THEM INTO ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL, AND THAT LANGUAGE COULD BE USED BY SWAPO AS PROOF. IN ADDITION, PARIS OPPOSED THE USE OF THE WORD "MUST" PREFERRING INSTEAD "SHOULD". WE AND OTHERS OPPOSED SUGGESTED FRENCH CHANGE ON GROUNDS THAT "SHOULD" IS TOO WEAK AND CHANGE WOULD REPRESENT INCONSISTENCY WITH LANGUAGE USED IN TALKING POINTS FOR FRONTLINE STATES. END COMMENT'

2. THE CONTACT GROUP PLANS TO GIVE REVISED MESSAGE TO SWAPO UN REPRESENTATIVE GURIRAB IN NEW YORK MAY 17. A COPY WILL BE PROVIDED TO NUJOMA IN LUANDA, AND HE WILL BE INFORMED THEN THAT AS HE HAS REQUESTED PREVIOUSLY, THE FORMAL COMMUNICATION HAS BEEN MADE THROUGH SWAPO OFFICE IN NEW YORK. MCHENRY

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 17 may 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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